

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): An apparatus for dispensing elongated objects such as plant stakes, comprising:

a store provided with an elongated dispensing opening for the objects; and

a dispenser assembly including a conveyor positioned beneath the dispensing opening and adapted to move, wherein the conveyor comprises a central part, wherein the central part is bordered on either side by a support part distanced away therefrom and positioned to support one end of the elongated object, wherein the central part includes recesses to accommodate the objects, and wherein the recesses extend essentially parallel to the dispensing opening.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the elongated dispensing opening is made directly adjoining the central part and is adapted to contain a plurality of elongated objects alongside one another.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the central part comprises a cylinder.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the support parts comprise a disc.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the support parts are not provided with recesses.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein a surface of the support parts and the central part execute a same transporting movement.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the support parts comprise a disc, and the cylinder and discs are mounted on a common shaft.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): An apparatus for dispensing elongated objects such as plant stakes, comprising:

a series of dispenser assemblies; and

a store provided with a plurality of elongated dispensing openings for dispensing the objects therethrough, wherein the store is in communication with each of the dispenser assemblies and is adapted to dispense a discrete number of the objects into each of the dispenser assemblies,

wherein each of the dispenser assemblies include a conveyor positioned beneath the dispensing opening and adapted to move, wherein the conveyor comprises a central part, wherein the central part is bordered on either side by a support part distanced away therefrom and positioned to support one end of the elongated object, wherein the central part includes recesses to accommodate the objects, and wherein the recesses extend essentially parallel to the dispensing opening, wherein axes of each of the recesses are arranged parallel and in line one after the other.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): The apparatus according to claim 13 further comprising:

a trough for receiving the objects from the dispenser assembly; and

gripper means for gripping the objects from the trough and positioning the objects in a substantially vertical orientation.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the gripper means comprise a clamping jaw movable in a rotating and translational manner.

Claim 23 (Cancelled)

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A method for individual separation of elongated objects, comprising the steps of:

feeding said elongated objects into a store; and

dispensing the elongated objects through a dispensing opening of the store to a conveyor, wherein the conveyor includes recesses sized to accommodate each of the elongated objects and support parts to support respective ends of each elongated object, wherein said conveyor is adapted to transport the elongated objects stepwise in a main direction and after each step perform a movement in a direction opposed to the main direction over a distance that is smaller than the step.